

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Paul Greeley on July 16, 2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

5. (Currently Amended) The spread mat of claim 1, wherein said adhesive agent comprises 60 - 80 parts ~~from 60% to 80%~~ by weight of said polyester-based plasticizer, 2 - 3 parts by weight ~~from 2 wt% to 3 wt%~~ of said stabilizer, and 10 - 20 parts by weight ~~from 10 wt% to 20 wt%~~ of said diluent based on 100 parts by weight of the polyvinyl-based paste resin .
6. (Currently Amended) The spread mat of claim 2, wherein said crushed particulate material comprises a plasticizer in an amount of up to 30 parts by weight based on 100 parts by weight of the hard synthetic resin material ~~30 wt%~~.

Reasons for Allowance

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The Applicant's Amendments and Accompanying Remarks, filed April 8, 2010, have been entered and have been carefully considered Claim 1 is amended, claims 5 - 6 are added and claims 1 - 2 and 4 - 6 are pending.

2. In view of Applicant's amendment to claim 1, the Examiner withdraws the Specification objection and the 35 USC 112, 2nd paragraph rejection as detailed in paragraphs 3 – 6 of the previous Office Action.
3. In view of Applicant's argument that Hagerman specifically states that the particles must have a mesh size of 180 - 360 while Applicant claims a mesh size from 15 - 80, the Examiner withdraws the rejection as detailed in paragraph 7 of the previous Office Action. Specifically, Hagerman indicates in column 3, lines 4 - 28 that satisfactory non-slip properties are obtained without excessive scratching of the floor surface if the particle size is within the range of 180 to 360 mesh. Although, the secondary reference, Hiragami et al. (US 3,278,967), do teach that the claimed particle size, there is no motivation to modify the particle size of Hagerman to the size used in Hiragami et al. Additionally, the previously applied GB 1,247,373 teaches an outdoor mat comprising a tangled matt or continuous filaments which may have an abrasive grain applied to the surface (page 1, lines 10 – 20 and page 3, lines 1 – 20). However, GB 1,247,373 fails to teach the details of the abrasion grain nor the details of the adhesive agent as required by independent claim 1. An updated art search did not produce any new substantial art for which to base a rejection and presently no motivation exists to combine references to render the claimed invention obvious.
4. The above Examiner's Amendment was made to make the claim limitations consistent with the language in the Specification to avoid any potential 35 USC 112, 1st paragraph new matter rejections.
5. As such, claims 1 – 2 and 4 – 6 are found allowable over the prior art of record.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JENNIFER A. CHRISS whose telephone number is (571)272-7783. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m., first Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Larry Tarazano can be reached on 571-272-1515. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jennifer A Chriss/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1786

/J. A. C./
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1786